

Subject: Street Vending Motion - make sure your BID's voice is heard

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Dear fellow BID leaders-

Many of you may be aware that the city council has a motion that is being studied by the Chief Legislative Analyst's office that would legalize street vending in the city. Specifically, CF #13-1493 (http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2013/13-1493_MOT_11-06-13.pdf) would allow both food and merchandise to be sold on city streets. The city would be responsible for setting up regulations and then enforcing them (along with the County regulating food production and sales).

The CLA report is due back next week and going to the Economic Development committee on the 13th - and the BIDs should weigh in on this matter if you haven't already. Most of the Downtown BIDs plus our neighborhood council and other groups do not believe that street vending is right or appropriate for downtown especially given the lack of city resources to implement and enforce any type of policy.

But what is wrong for downtown may not be wrong for your BID. Or it might be wrong. The point is, the city needs to meet with us - each of us - and present their plans and ideas AND let us weigh in on what will happen in our own district. Instead of forcing the usual one-size-fits-all approach, this is something that needs to be crafted to the needs and sensibilities of each of the BIDs and neighborhoods. A note telling us that this is coming to committee and we will have one or three minutes isn't enough.

Please contact your councilmember's office and tell them that you are concerned about this motion and its potential impacts in your BID. Tell them that you want the city to do a presentation to your board, where all of your members can attend and be heard. You may find that it's a great idea for you. Or you may be neutral. Or you may oppose it. The point is - your BID should be able to decide what's right for your area. And the city should have to answer your questions about how they're going to enforce this new system when they don't have the resources to enforce laws already on the books.

Please contact your councilmember and copy Felipe Chavez (felipe.v.chavez@lacity.org) in the CLA's office, if you send an email. Tell them that these presentations should be on impact to local area (good and bad), enforcement, clean up, liability, etc. We need to make sure that the city doesn't try to rush this through as usual and that they are thorough in their outreach.

I will be back in touch regarding the hearing - but please let me know if you think you can make it on 5/13 at 1p.

Thank you.

Best,

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